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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q66820

KATSUMATA, Yoshihiro, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/987,077

Group Art Unit: 1711

Confirmation No.: 6412

Examiner: M. BISSETT

Filed: November 13, 2001

For: INK WASTAGE ABSORBER AND INK SUPPORTER

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AMENDMENT
AND
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment and Response to Restriction Requirement is in reply to the Office Action dated May 7, 2003, in which the Examiner set forth a one-month period for response, making a response timely if filed on or before June 7, 2003.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-4 without prejudice or disclaimer.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 09/987,077

REMARKS

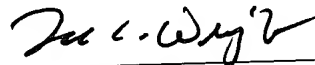
Claims 11-26 are all the claims pending in the application.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elects Group II, claims 11-16, for examination. This election is made without traverse.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: May 30, 2003

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 09/987,077

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4 are canceled.